

VERTIGO

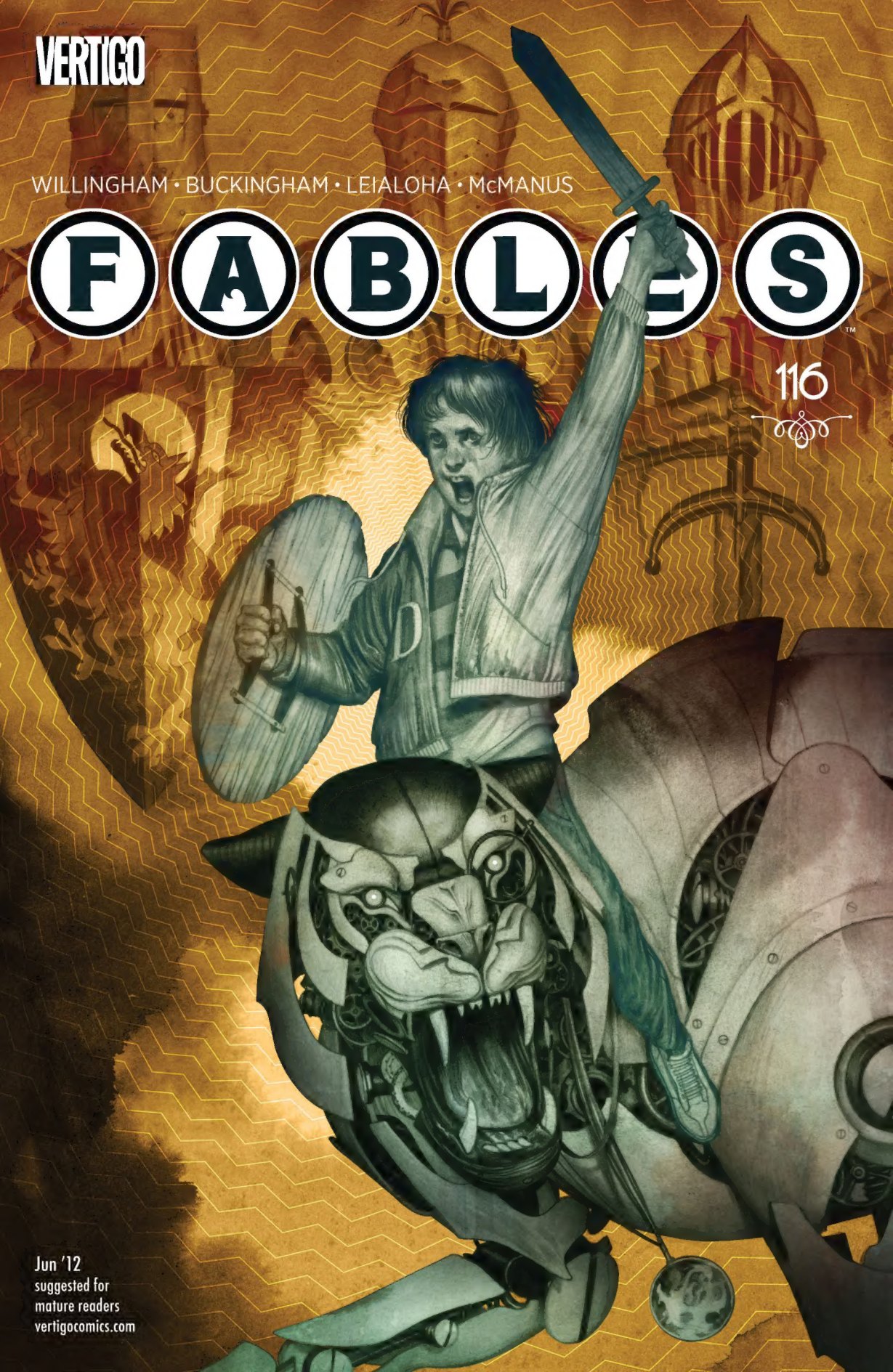
WILLINGHAM • BUCKINGHAM • LEIALOHA • McMANUS

F A B L E S

116



Jun '12
suggested for
mature readers
vertigo.comics.com



CLOCKWORK TIGER

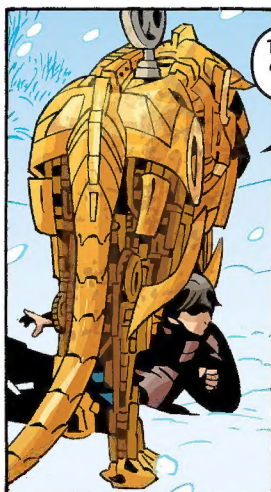
Chapter 3 of CUBS in TOYLAND In which lunch is finally served.



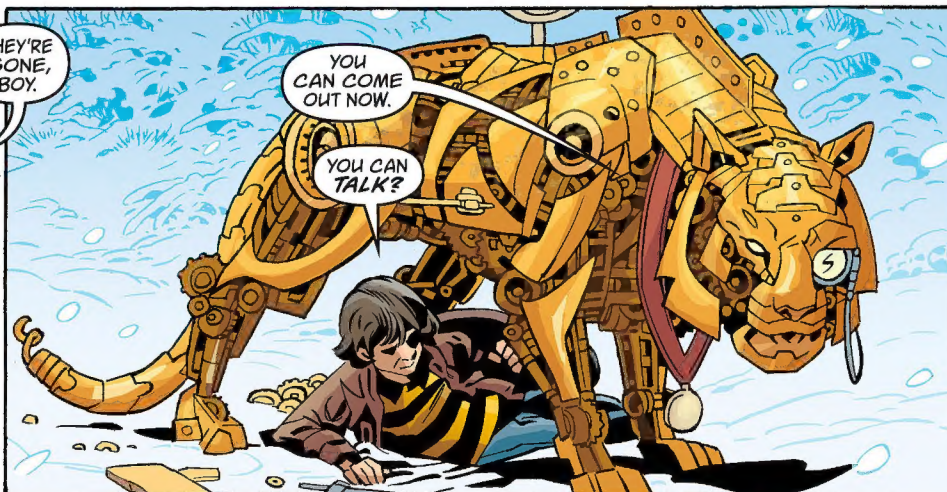


HE'S NOT A TOY, YOU BRATS! HE'S THE RIGHTFUL GOVERNOR OF ALL THE INDU!

BAD SAM! BAD SAM!



THEY'RE GONE, BOY.

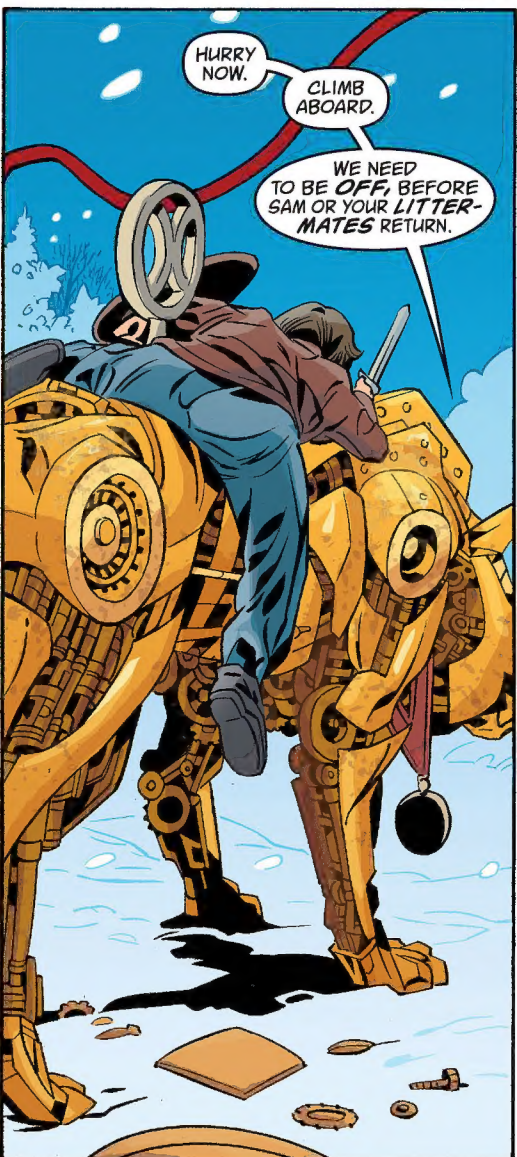


YOU CAN COME OUT NOW.

YOU CAN TALK?



SOMETIMES, WHEN MY REPAIRS ARE KEPT UP, OR THE MAGIC IS STRONG UPON ME.



HURRY NOW.

CLIMB ABOARD.

WE NEED TO BE OFF, BEFORE SAM OR YOUR LITTER-MATES RETURN.



OKAY, BUT I CAN'T PLAY VERY LONG. I NEED TO LOOK FOR MY SISTER.

YOU THINK I BROUGHT YOU HERE THIS MORNING TO PLAY?

BROUGHT ME?

GIRD YOUR HEART FOR ACTION, BOY. IT'S TIME FOR THE GREAT ADVENTURE.

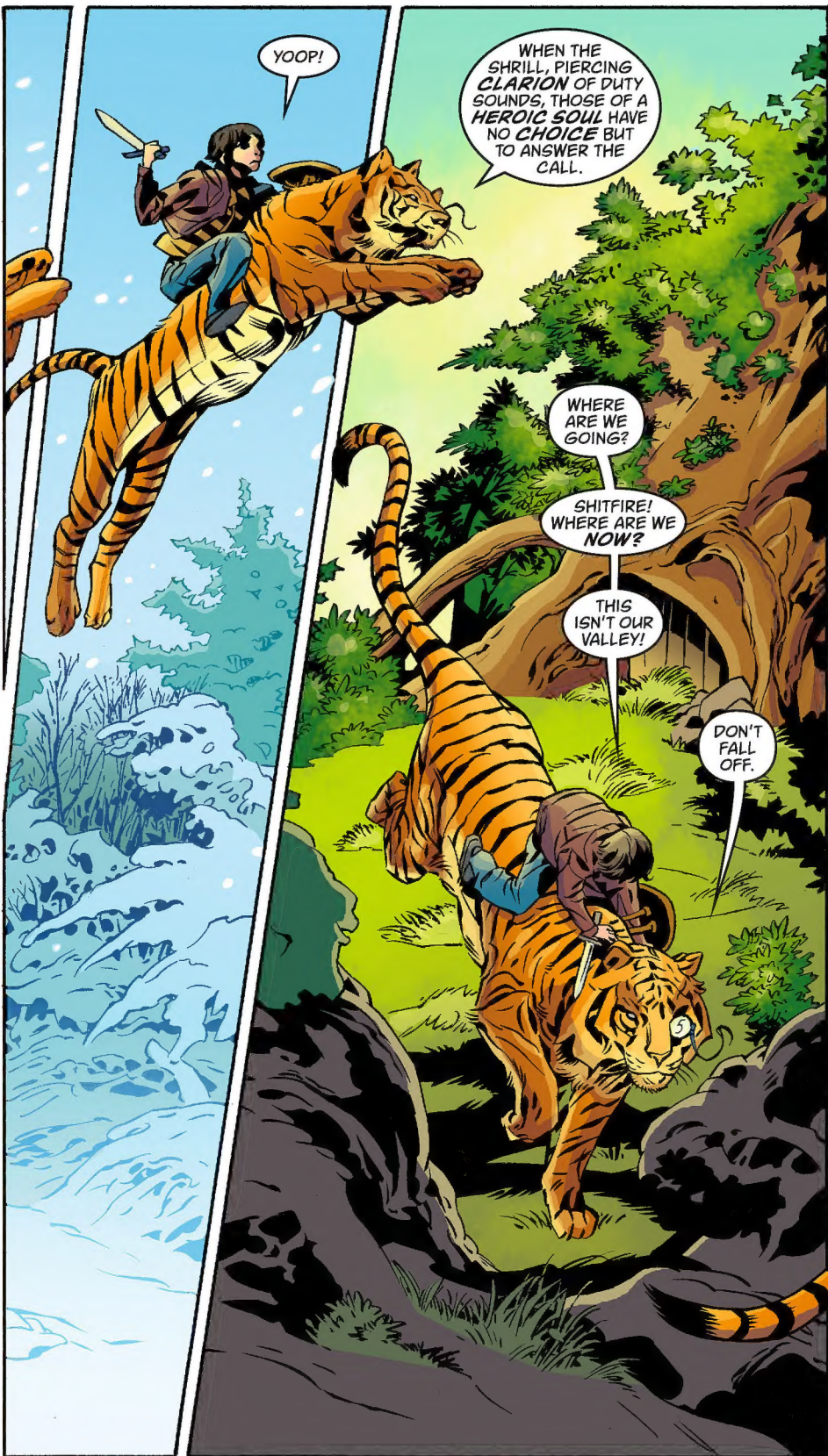
OUR QUEST HAS COMMENCED.



WOW!

HANG ON!





YOOP!

WHEN THE SHRILL, PIERCING CLARION OF DUTY SOUNDS, THOSE OF A HEROIC SOUL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ANSWER THE CALL.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

SHITFIRE! WHERE ARE WE NOW?

THIS ISN'T OUR VALLEY!

DON'T FALL OFF.



THESE ARE PERILOUS LANDS WE'RE PASSING THROUGH.



AND I'VE NO ABILITY TO STOP IN ONE OF THEM TO FETCH YOU BACK INTO THE SADDLE.

ONE STEP IN EACH WORLD IS ALL I'M ALLOWED.

FOR THESE LANDS ARE THE STEPPING STONES BETWEEN THE TWO DISTANT POLES OF MY DIVIDED NATURE.

UNDERSTAND?



NO!

SAM MEANS WELL, BUT HE'S WRONG. I AM A TOY.

A PRODUCT OF TWO DISCIPLINES, SORCERY AND THE WATCH-MAKER'S ARTS.

CREATED TO BE A SULTAN'S GIFT TO THE CHILDREN OF THE VICEROY (MAY THE BICKERING GODS OF EAST AND WEST REST HIS SOUL).



TWO THINGS, BOY. GET IT?

ALWAYS TWO, WHICH ENCAPSULATES THE ETERNAL STRUGGLE FOR BALANCE. THE NUMBER OF UNCERTAINTY.

INDECISION.

CONFLICT.



I WAS BROUGHT BACKWARDS INTO LIFE.



WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



I'M CURSED TO LIVE OPPOSITELY IN TWO REALMS. IN THE REAL WORLD I'M A CLEVER TOY. IN THE TOY WORLD I'M A REAL TIGER. AND ALWAYS ONE FOOT IN EACH.

DOESN'T THAT GIVE YOU TWO FEET LEFT OVER?

BRIGHT BOY. NO, I WAS SPEAKING METAPHORICALLY.

OH, MY BROTHER AMBROSE KNOWS HOW TO TALK METALFORK. DOES IT ALL THE TIME TO MAKE ME LOOK DUMB. I ONLY KNOW A LITTLE SPANISH.

AND SO HERE WE ARE. THE TERRIBLE SHORE.

"MADLAND."

THIS IS A GREAT AND **GLORIOUS** DAY, YOUR MAJESTY.

HOW I'VE **LONGED** FOR IT, WAITING THROUGH THE YEARS.

WE **NEVER** GAVE UP HOPE.

BUT THERE WERE TIMES WE **DESPAIRED** THAT HOPE HAD GIVEN UP ON US.

HERE THEY COME!

CAN YOU **SEE** HER? WHAT DOES SHE **LOOK** LIKE?

MAY IT BE SHE LOOKS LIKE MOMMY.

MAY IT BE.



OOH,
LOOK AT
HER!

SO
MAJESTIC.

REGAL!
THE WORD IS
REGAL!

I
THOUGHT
SHE'D BE
TALLER.

HAS
SHE DONE
HER FIRST
MIRACLE
YET?

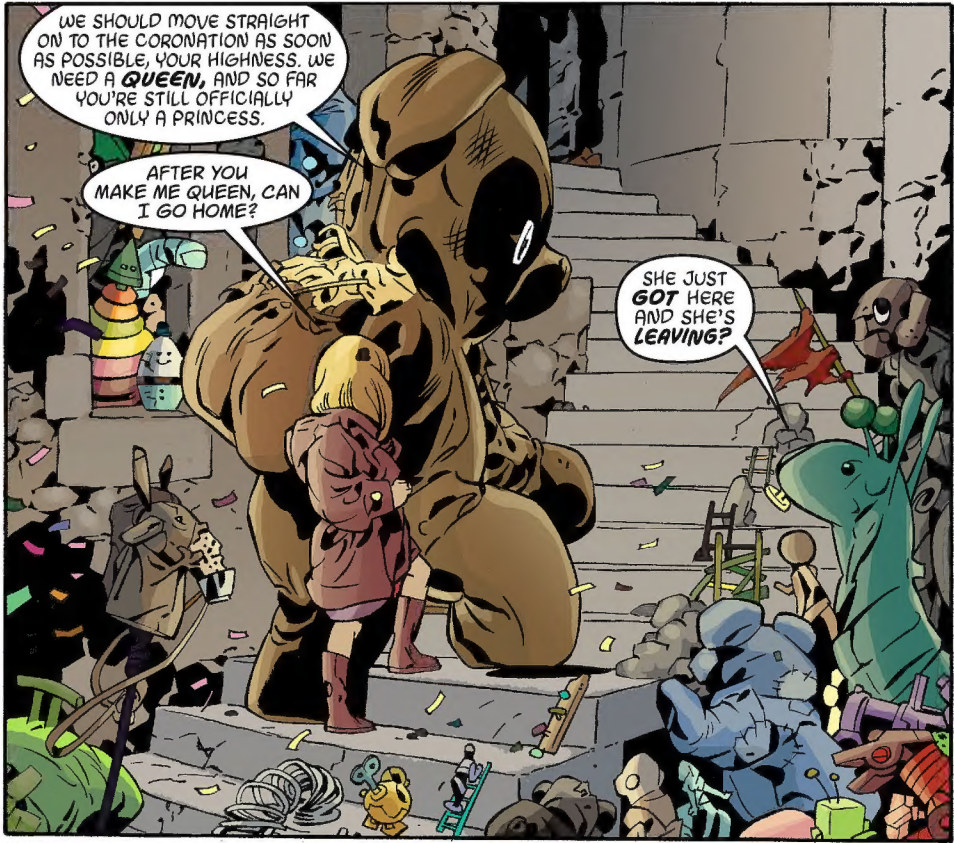
THESE ARE
YOUR NEW SUBJECTS,
YOUR HIGHNESS. **SOME**
OF US, AT LEAST.

OUT OF
THE **WAY**, YA BIG
FAT IVES! I CAN'T
SEE HER!

IS
EVERY-
ONE HERE
BROKEN?

SSSSSIMPLY
SSSSSSSUMPTUOUS
GIRL.

SHE'S
SO **BIG**.





A AT THAT SAME TIME,
FAR AWAY...

THERESE!

THERESE!

SPREAD
OUT, BUT KEEP IN
SIGHT OF EACH
OTHER.

I'VE GOT
NO SCENT. THE
SNOW'S TOO NEW TO
TELL IF SHE CAME
THIS WAY.



BIGBY WOULD
BE ABLE TO PICK
UP HER SCENT IN
SECONDS.

HE
NEEDS
TO BE
HERE.



I CAN SEE YOU'RE
WORRIED, SIS, BUT ONE
THING I'VE LEARNED
RECENTLY.

THERE'S
ALWAYS
HOPE.

AND ODDLY ENOUGH,
I CAN PROMISE *THIS*
TIME, HOPE WON'T RUN
OUT ON YOU.

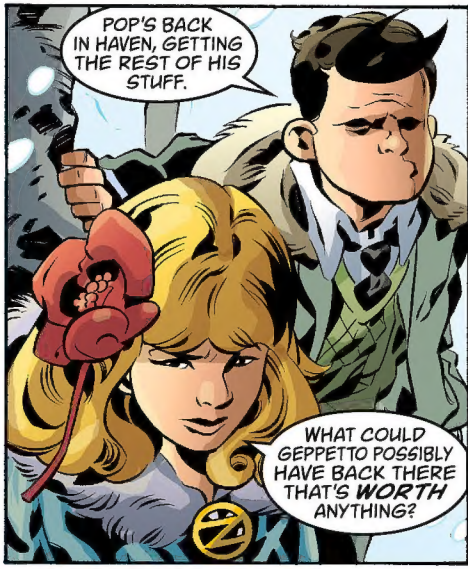


WE'LL FIND HER, OZMA. I WANDERED OFF A DOZEN MILLION BILLION TIMES, AND I ALWAYS FOUND MY WAY HOME AGAIN.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE'S YOUR FATHER? HE SHOULD BE HERE HELPING IN THE SEARCH.

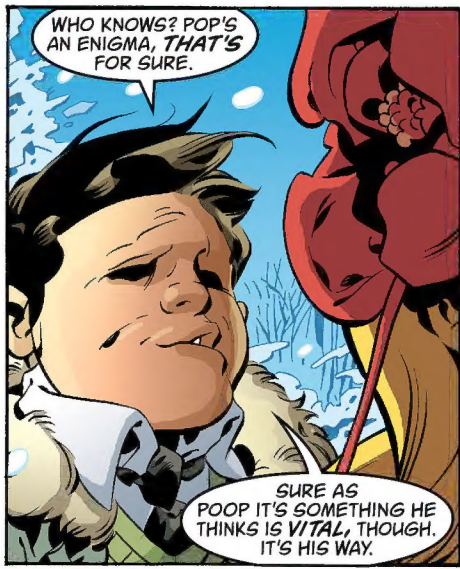
HE COULD DO WITH BUILDING UP A LITTLE COMMUNITY CREDIT.

THERESE!



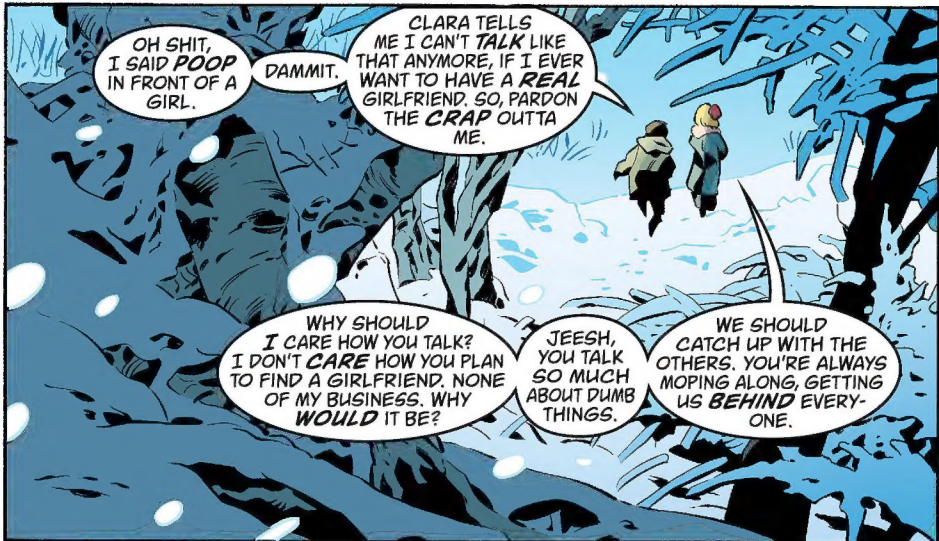
POP'S BACK IN HAVEN, GETTING THE REST OF HIS STUFF.

WHAT COULD GEPPETTO POSSIBLY HAVE BACK THERE THAT'S WORTH ANYTHING?



WHO KNOWS? POP'S AN ENIGMA, THAT'S FOR SURE.

SURE AS POOP IT'S SOMETHING HE THINKS IS VITAL, THOUGH. IT'S HIS WAY.



OH SHIT, I SAID POOP IN FRONT OF A GIRL.

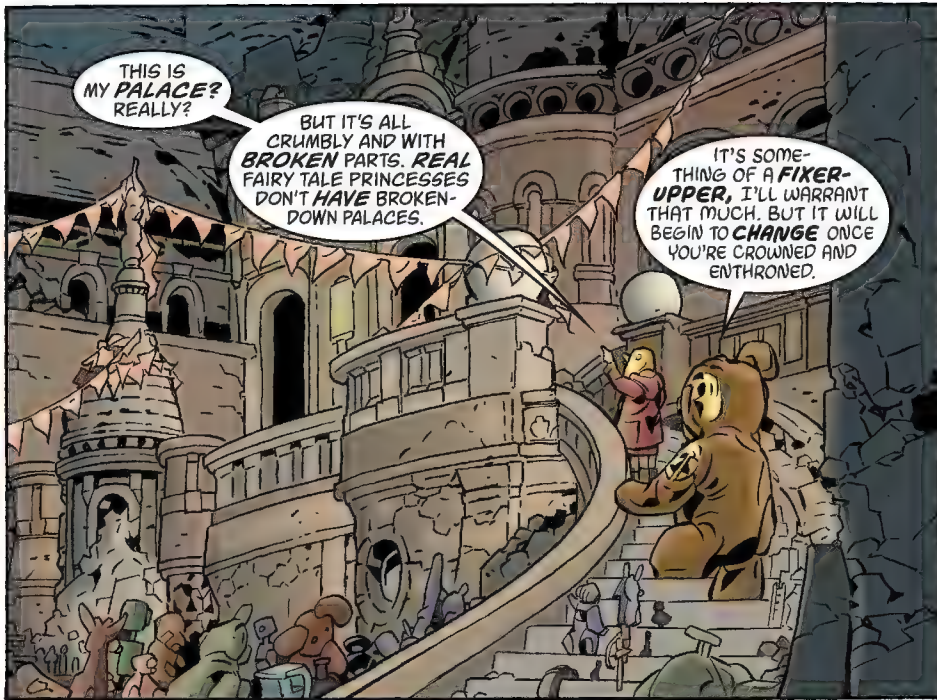
DAMMIT.

CLARA TELLS ME I CAN'T TALK LIKE THAT ANYMORE, IF I EVER WANT TO HAVE A REAL GIRLFRIEND. SO, PARDON THE CRAP OUTTA ME.

WHY SHOULD I CARE HOW YOU TALK? I DON'T CARE HOW YOU PLAN TO FIND A GIRLFRIEND. NONE OF MY BUSINESS. WHY WOULD IT BE?

JEEESH, YOU TALK SO MUCH ABOUT DUMB THINGS.

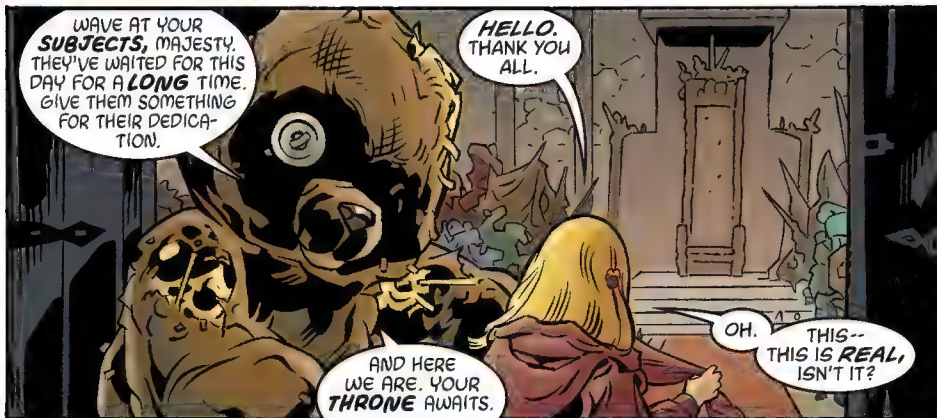
WE SHOULD CATCH UP WITH THE OTHERS. YOU'RE ALWAYS MOPING ALONG, GETTING US BEHIND EVERYONE.



THIS IS MY PALACE? REALLY?

BUT IT'S ALL CRUMBLY AND WITH **BROKEN PARTS**. REAL FAIRY TALE PRINCESSES DON'T **HAVE BROKEN-DOWN PALACES**.

IT'S SOMETHING OF A **FIXER-UPPER**, I'LL WARRANT THAT MUCH. BUT IT WILL BEGIN TO **CHANGE** ONCE YOU'RE CROWNED AND ENTHRONED.

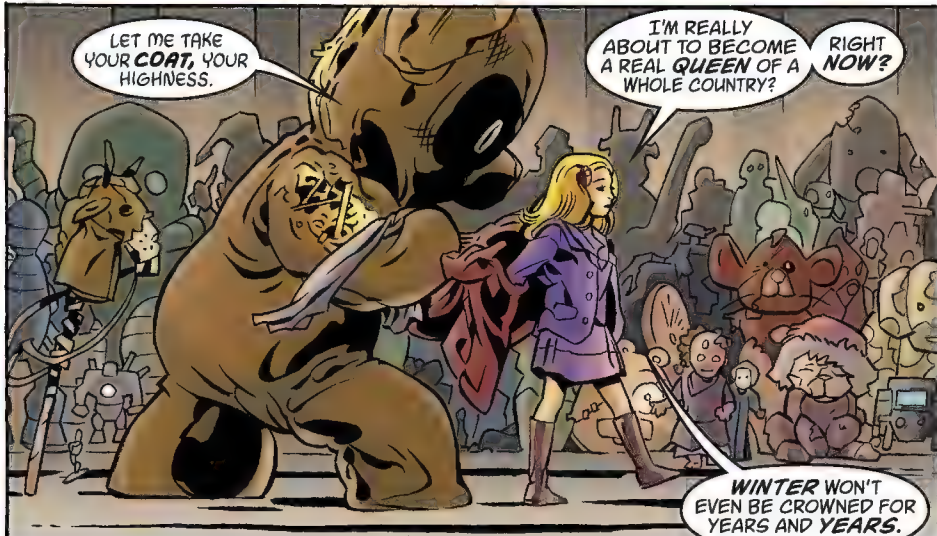


WAVE AT YOUR **SUBJECTS**, MAJESTY. THEY'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY FOR A **LONG** TIME. GIVE THEM SOMETHING FOR THEIR **DEDICATION**.

HELLO. THANK YOU ALL.

AND HERE WE ARE. YOUR **THRONE** AWAITS.

OH. THIS-- THIS IS **REAL**, ISN'T IT?



LET ME TAKE YOUR **COAT**, YOUR HIGHNESS.

I'M REALLY ABOUT TO BECOME A REAL **QUEEN** OF A WHOLE COUNTRY?

RIGHT NOW?

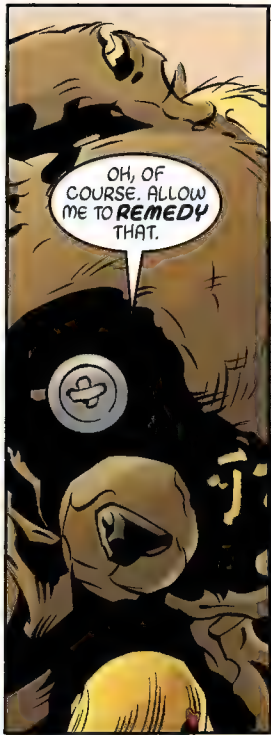
WINTER WON'T EVEN BE CROWNED FOR YEARS AND YEARS.



SIT AND WE'LL BEGIN.

SHE WON'T EVEN BE A REAL QUEEN. SHE HAS TO BECOME A KING. YUCK!

OH, THIS THRONE IS A BIT SPIKEY!



OH, OF COURSE. ALLOW ME TO REMEDY THAT.



MR. WELLSTUFFED, WILL YOU STEP UP TO SERVE YOUR QUEEN?

OF COURSE, TEDDY SAINT IVES, OF DARKSLIDE AND PUFFBOTTOM DELL.



I'LL JUST--

HOLD ON AND--



UPSY-DAISY!

ALL CUSHIONED NOW, Y'R GREATNESS.

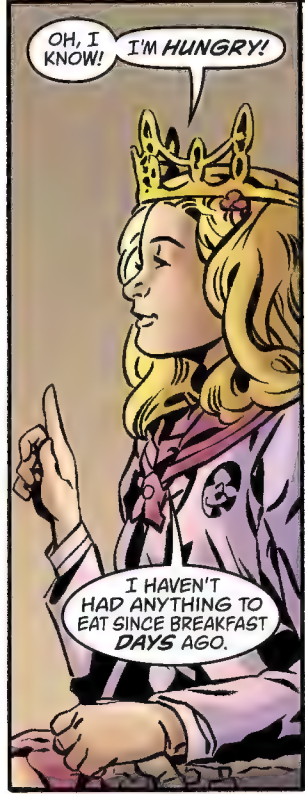


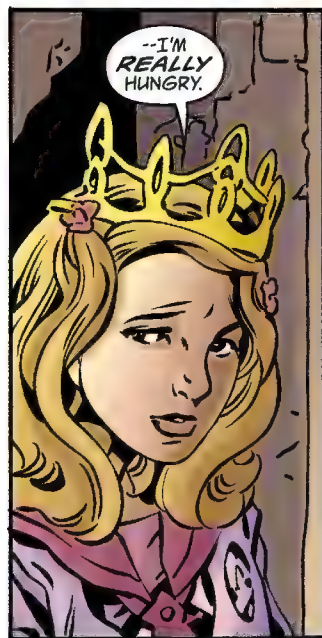
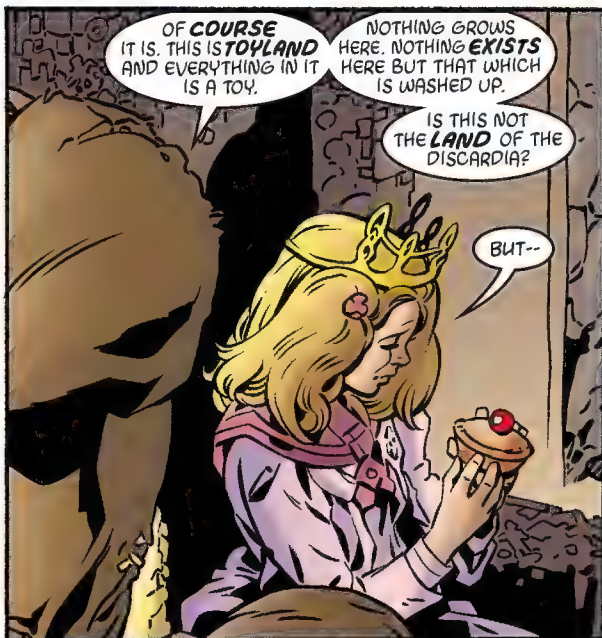
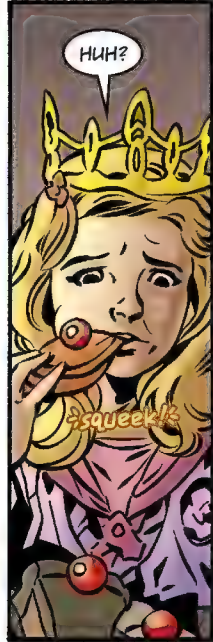
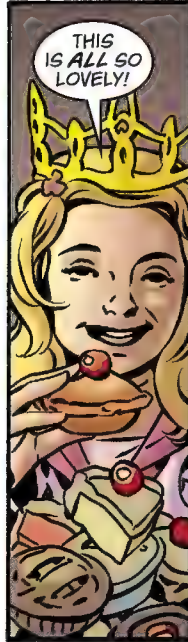
PLEASE SIT.

ARE YOU SURE?

UHM... THANK YOU, MR. WELLSTUFFED.

GLAD TO BE OF HELP, MA'AM.





IN OTHER WORLDS, AS GRIM DAY BECOMES GRIEF-CLOAKED NIGHT...



HERE!

WE'RE HOME, DADDY.



GOOD GIRL.

BIGBY!

WINTER!



THANK GOODNESS YOU RECEIVED MY CALL.

WINTER'S BECOMING PRETTY GOOD AT PICKING UP WHEN YOU WANT US.

NOW, WHAT'S THE MATTER?



THERE'S GONE!

NEXT: THE FORLORN HOPE

A REVOLUTION in OZ

Chapter Three: AT THE END OF HIS ROPE

Bill Willingham
writer/creator

Shawn McManus
artist

Todd Klein letters

Gregory Lockard
assistant editor

Shelly Bond editor

THAT FATEFUL DAY
CAME
WHEN BUFKIN,
PRINCE OF THE
REVOLUTIONARIES,
WAS HANGED
FOR TREASON.

HANGMAN,
CARRY OUT THE
SENTENCE OF
THIS COURT.

SEE
YOU ALL IN
HELL!

NOTHING
COULD
SAVE HIM.

UNLESS...

...THE ROPE
REFUSED TO
COOPERATE.



YOWCH!

BONK!



HOW...??

DON'T TRY TO FIGURE IT OUT! JUST RUN FOR IT, SWEETIE!

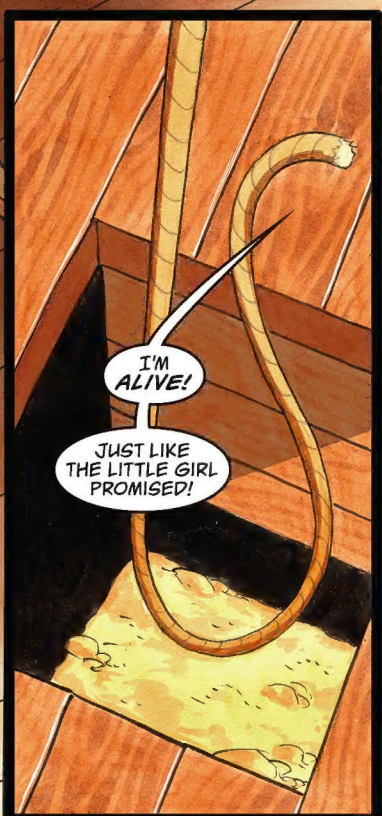


ARE YOU TRYING TO GET CAUGHT AGAIN? MOVE YOUR ASS, YOU SAD SACK OF MONKEY-FLAVORED FECEES!



HOW IS IT THERE ISN'T A DEAD MONKEY AT THE END OF THIS ROPE?

I COULDN'T SAY. I TIED THAT NOOSE MYSELF.



I'M ALIVE!

JUST LIKE THE LITTLE GIRL PROMISED!



HAVE A POKE IN THE EYE, HANGMAN!

AND YOU, TOO, YOU STUFFY OLD BASTARD!

YOU HAVE A POKE IN THE EYE, TOO!

BINK!

OW!



THIS HANGMAN'S ROPE IS **FREE** FROM HUMAN BONDAGE!

HUZZAH!



I'M FREE!

ODD THAT I'M STILL FEELING SORT OF **MURDERY**, THOUGH. I GUESS I'M A TRUE HANGMAN'S ROPE BY NATURE.



HOW'D YOU **DO** THAT, LILY?

POWDER OF LIFE APPLIED TO THE ROPE IN THE **WEE** HOURS!



AM I ONE **HOT** AND **SAGGY** GIRLFRIEND, OR WHAT?

Next:
What about that nome general who wanted to take over the revolution?

"WHEN YOU HAVE
a DOZEN OR MORE
FABLE WOMEN ALL
CLAIMING TO BE
THE FAIREST IN ALL
THE LAND, IT SEEMS
ONLY FAIR WE
CREATE THIS
SERIES WHERE
EACH ONE OF THEM
HAS A CHANCE TO
STRUT HER STUFF
AND MAKE HER
BEST CASE."

—BILL WILLINGHAM

"GOT KINGDOM?"

—THE SNOW QUEEN



#1 ON SALE
MARCH 7, 2012

BETTER. STRONGER. FASTER.

FAIREST

WRITTEN BY BILL WILLINGHAM ART BY PHIL JIMENEZ AND ANDY LANNING

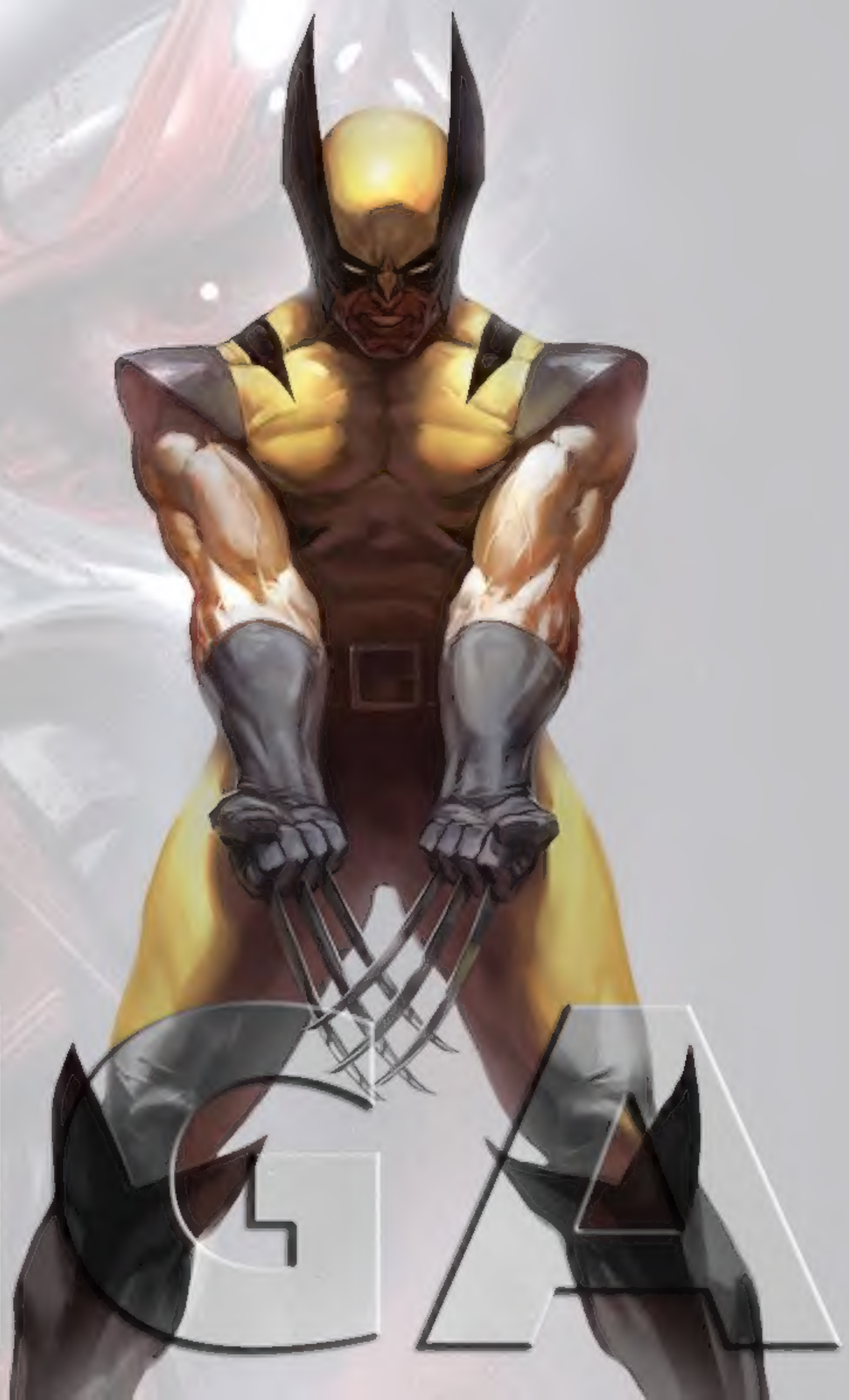
WRAPAROUND COVER BY ADAM HUGHES

Balancing horror, humor and adventure, FAIREST is a new monthly series that explores the secret histories of Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Cinderella, The Snow Queen, Thumbelina, Snow White, Rose Red and many other characters from FABLES.

Fan-favorite artist Phil Jimenez (WONDER WOMAN, THE INVISIBLES) returns to Vertigo to pencil the opening storyline. Award-winning artist Adam Hughes (WONDER WOMAN, BATGIRL) provides covers, starting with a wraparound cover on issue #1.

Future story arcs will be written by 2011 Arthur C. Clarke Award-winner Lauren Beukes with art by Inaki Miranda, and iZOMBIE scribe Chris Roberson with art by Shawn McManus!





NATHAN